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SOLAR/1030-78/12

Monthly Performance Report



CHESTER WEST DECEMBER 1978



National Solar Heating and Cooling Demonstration Program

National Solar Data Program



NOTICE _

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MONTHLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

CHESTER WEST

DECEMBER 1978

SYSTEM DESCRIPTION

The Chester West site is a single-family residence in Huntsville, Alabama. Solar energy is used for space heating the home and preheating domestic hot water (DHW). The solar energy system has an array of flat-plate collectors with a gross area of 225 square feet. The array faces south at an angle of 49 degrees to the horizontal. A glycerol-water solution is used as the medium for delivering solar energy from the collector array to storage, and water is the medium for delivering solar energy from storage to the space heating and hot water loads. Solar energy is stored aboveground in a 500-gallon water storage tank. Auxiliary space heating is provided by an air-to-air heat pump and electrical heating elements which are designed to function in parallel with the solar energy space heating loop. Auxiliary hot water heating is provided in series with the solar energy hot water heating loop through the use of electrical heating elements in an 80-gallon DHW tank. The system, shown schematically in Figure 1, has three modes of solar operation.

<u>Mode l - Collector-to-Storage</u>: This mode activates when the control system senses a sufficient temperature difference between the collector and storage and remains active until the temperature difference drops below the accepted minimum. The collected energy is transferred to storage through a ring-type, liquid-to-liquid heat exchanger located in the storage tank. Pump Pl is operating.

<u>Mode 2 - Storage-to-Space Heating</u>: This mode activates when there is a demand for space heating. Solar energy is circulated to the conditioned space by solar heated water from storage through a liquid-to-air heat exchanger located in the air-distribution duct. Pump P3 is operating.

<u>Mode 3 - Storage-to-DHW Tank</u>: This mode activates when the control system senses a sufficient temperature difference between storage and the DHW tank, and remains active as long as a sufficient difference exists. Water circulates from the top of storage through a liquid-to-liquid heat exchanger located in the bottom of the DHW tank. Pump P2 is operating.

II. PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

INTRODUCTION

The solar energy system was in continuous operation during the month of December. Instrumentation anomalies in the form of malfunctioning liquid flowmeters (W300 and W400) in the storage/DHW and storage/space heating loops affected the December analysis. It was possible to preserve the space heating performance data by basing performance analysis on air rather than liquid flow.

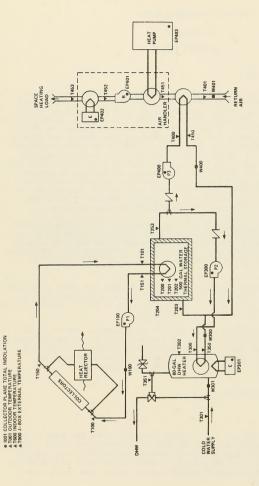


Figure 1. CHESTER WEST SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM SCHEMATIC

This was not possible in the DHW loop. Some storage and DHW performance factors were rendered invalid. Data on the space heating component indicates a solar fraction of 19 percent, and an electrical energy savings of 0.55 million Btu.

WEATHER CONDITIONS

During the month, total incident solar energy on the collector array was 8.0 million Btu for a daily average of 1149 Btu per square foot. This was above the estimated average daily solar radiation for this geographical area during December of 1066 Btu per square foot for a south-facing plane with a tilt of 49 degrees to the horizontal. The average ambient temperature during December was 45°F as compared with the long-term average for December of 42°F.

THERMAL PERFORMANCE

Collector - The total incident solar radiation on the collector array for the month of December was 8.0 million Btu. During the period the collector loop was operating, the total insolation amounted to 7.2 million Btu. The total collected solar energy for the month of December was 3.8 million Btu, resulting in a collector array efficiency of 48 percent, based on total incident insolation. Solar energy delivered from the collector array to storage was 3.5 million Btu. Energy loss during transfer from the collector array to storage was 8.0.3 million Btu.

<u>Storage</u> - Solar energy delivered to storage from the collector was 3.5 million <u>Btu</u>. The average storage temperature for the month was 96°F.

<u>DHW Load</u> - The DHW subsystem consumed an unknown amount of solar energy and 0.46 million Btu of auxiliary electrical energy. The DHW subsystem consumed a total of 0.18 million Btu of operating energy.

<u>Space Heating Load</u> - The space heating subsystem consumed 1.2 million Btu of solar energy and 5.1 million Btu of auxiliary electrical energy to satisfy a space heating load of 6.1 million Btu. The solar fraction of this load was 19 percent. The space heating subsystem consumed a total of 0.51 million Btu of operating energy, resulting in an electrical energy savings of 0.55 million Btu.

OBSERVATIONS

The evaluation of the DHW and storage solar subsystems was limited by a malfunctioning liquid flowmeter. Two system problems need correction: The slow liquid seepage from the storage tank and the lengthy operation of the pump in the DHW loop.

ENERGY SAVINGS

The space heating subsystem contributed an electrical savings of 0.55 million Btu.

III. ACTION STATUS

Plans have been made to replace the storage tank. The system designer is investigating pump operation in the DHW loop. The operation of the liquid flow sensors are to be investigated by Boeing during the next site visit.

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MONTHLY REPORT COLLECTOR ARRAY PERFORMANCE

SOLAR/1030-78/12 SITE: CHESTER WEST REPORT PERIOD: DECEMBER, 1978

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SOLAR HEATING AND COOLING DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

MONTHLY REPORT ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMARY

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